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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Possibilities of Oil Exploitations in East  
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The newest oil discoveries in the border region of East Germany near Waddekath, southwest of Salzwedel are closely connected with the "Gifhorner Trog", recently discovered through geophysical prospecting. The "Gifhorner Trog" is a subterranean troughline leading from the town of Gifhorn, Lower Saxony, north north-east and having a sedimentary thickness of 800 to 1,000 meters. It is the source region of new and important oil discoveries near Hankensbuettel, Lower Saxony, close to the north-west rim of the trough. This troughline runs across the border in the Salzwedel area and presumably branches off towards Werle, Mecklenburg. 25X1
2. According to experts, who met at a conference of the Society for Mineralogy and Organic Chemistry in Essen on 6 to 9 October 1954, more oil discoveries will probably be made at the boundary fields of the trough near Waddekath in East Germany, which may be as productive as those oil discoveries made in West Germany, which now already yield about one-third of the whole production from the area between the Elbe and Weser rivers.
3. Similar forecasts can probably not be made about the Mecklenburg area, as the discovery of the subterranean structures of the troughs leading essentially from south to north is only of recent date and the results of the latest reflectance measurements and seismographic tests made in East Germany are not yet known. Western experts, however, are of the opinion that the productive oil traces found in the Werle area, are connected with a branch of the Gifhorn trough. This leads to the theory that the area of the Gifhorn trough may also show productive results.
4. There is a possibility, that a subterranean trough, similar to the trough near Gifhorn may be found south of Berlin. From talks with East German experts, it appears that deepwell borings south of Berlin showed formation of the upper Jurassic period, which indicates the existence of a larger sedimentary thickness also in this area.
5. It seems doubtful, however, that the East German experts will realize the importance of these findings. The above mentioned Gifhorner discoveries are new and were made possible only by the use of essentially improved seismographical instruments and by many years of experience. But East Germany does not have similar good instruments, nor does it have first-class experts with adequate knowledge. Though there is good material among the coming generation of young scientists, it, however, has not yet acquired the necessary experience. The expectation of finding oil in East Germany has much increased, but it is doubtful, whether the experts will fulfill their

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